

In the Claims:

A complete listing of the claims with proper claim identifiers is set forth below. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A magnetic detecting element comprising:
 - a multilayer laminate including a first antiferromagnetic layer, a pinned magnetic layer, a nonmagnetic material layer, and a free magnetic layer deposited in that order from below;
 - a nonmagnetic interlayer disposed above ~~deposited on~~ the free magnetic layer;
 - a pair of first ferromagnetic layers disposed above ~~on~~ the nonmagnetic interlayer in end portions in a track width direction of the magnetic detecting element, the first ferromagnetic layers being separated in the track width direction by a space therebetween;
 - a pair of second antiferromagnetic layers separately disposed above ~~deposited on~~ the respective first ferromagnetic layers;
 - a pair of second ferromagnetic layers separately disposed above ~~deposited on~~ the respective second antiferromagnetic layers; and
 - electrode layers,
- wherein the pair of second antiferromagnetic layers have respective outer end portions with a distance therebetween larger than the distance between the pair of first ferromagnetic layers in the track width direction, and respective internal end portions with a distance therebetween smaller than the distance between the outer end portions in the track width direction, the internal end portions jutting from internal end surfaces of the respective outer end portions toward a central portion in the track width direction, wherein the internal end portions have a thickness that is smaller than that of the outer end portions,
- wherein a magnetization direction of the second ferromagnetic layers is antiparallel to that of the first ferromagnetic layers.

2. (Currently amended) A magnetic detecting element according to Claim 1, wherein ~~a distance in the track width direction between the second antiferromagnetic layers is larger than a distance in the track width direction between the first ferromagnetic layers so that the first ferromagnetic layers jut out under respective internal side surfaces in the track width direction of the second antiferromagnetic layers, toward a center in the track width direction of the magnetic detecting element, and the pair of electrode layers lies over the internal end portions of the second antiferromagnetic layers and the jutting portions of the first ferromagnetic layers.~~

3. (Currently amended) A magnetic detecting element according to Claim 2, wherein the second ferromagnetic layers lie over the internal end portions and the outer end portions of the second antiferromagnetic layers and ~~the jutting portions of the first antiferromagnetic layers.~~

4. (Currently amended) A magnetic detecting element according to Claim 2, wherein the second ferromagnetic layers overlie only the outer end portions of the second antiferromagnetic layers.

5. (Previously presented) A magnetic detecting element according to Claim 1, the second ferromagnetic layers comprise a soft magnetic material and are deposited directly on upper surfaces of the second antiferromagnetic layers.

6. (Previously presented) A magnetic detecting element according to Claim 5, wherein a magnetic moment per area of the free magnetic layer is larger than that of the first ferromagnetic layers.

7. (Original) A magnetic detecting element according to Claim 1, further comprising nonmagnetic layers between the respective second antiferromagnetic layers and the second ferromagnetic layers, wherein the second ferromagnetic layers comprise a hard magnetic material.

8. (Previously presented) A magnetic detecting element according to Claim 1, further comprising nonmagnetic layers between the respective second antiferromagnetic layers and the second ferromagnetic layers, and third antiferromagnetic layers on respective upper surfaces of the second ferromagnetic layers, wherein the second ferromagnetic layers comprise a soft magnetic material.

9. (Original) A magnetic detecting element according to Claim 8, wherein the first antiferromagnetic layers, the second antiferromagnetic layers, and the third antiferromagnetic layers comprise the same material.

10. (Previously presented) A magnetic detecting element according to Claim 8, wherein the third antiferromagnetic layers comprise a material having a blocking temperature lower than that of the materials of the first antiferromagnetic layers and the second antiferromagnetic layers.

11. (Previously presented) A magnetic detecting element according to Claim 7, wherein a magnetic moment per area of the free magnetic layer is larger than that of the first ferromagnetic layers.

12. (Previously presented) A magnetic detecting element according to Claim 7, wherein a magnetic moment per area of the free magnetic layer is smaller than that of the first ferromagnetic layers.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Original) A magnetic detecting element according to Claim 1, wherein the electrode layers lie above and under the multilayer laminate.